

**DOCKET NO.:** HENK-0061 (H 3380)  
**Application No.:** 09/701,098  
**Office Action Dated:** July 28, 2004

**PATENT**  
**REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED**

**PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO**  
**37 CFR § 1.116**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A process for the controlled humidification of indoor air or an indoor air supply comprising exposing a dimensionally stable composition comprised of 1 to 40% by weight of one or more alkali metal carboxylates of C<sub>8-26</sub> carboxylic acids and 60 to 99% by weight of water to the indoor air or indoor air supply, wherein the composition contains virtually no water-soluble solvent.

10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9 wherein the dimensionally stable composition is additionally comprised of one or more additives selected from the group consisting of regulators, perfumes, insecticides, thickeners, dyes, pigments and moisture indicators.

11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 10 wherein said one or more additives are present in amounts of up to 20% by weight in the dimensionally stable composition.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9 wherein said one or more alkali metal carboxylates are Na carboxylates of C<sub>12-22</sub> carboxylic acids.

13. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9 wherein the dimensionally stable composition comprises 2 to 10% by weight of the one or more alkali metal carboxylates and 70 to 98% by weight of water.

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9 wherein the dimensionally stable composition is placed on a suitable support in a room filled with air to be humidified.

15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9 wherein the dimensionally stable composition is exposed in a suitable holder or pack to a stream of the indoor air supply to be humidified.

16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15 wherein the stream of the indoor air supply is heated before, during or after humidification.

17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15 wherein the stream of the indoor air supply is cooled before, during or after humidification.

18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15 wherein the dimensionally stable composition has a shape selected from the group consisting of blocks, spheres, cubes, bars, discs and figures.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15 wherein the dimensionally stable composition has a pH of 7 to 11.

Claims 20-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A dimensionally stable composition suitable for use in the controlled humidification of indoor air or an indoor air supply comprising 1 to 40% by weight of one or more alkali metal carboxylates of C<sub>8-26</sub> carboxylic acids and 60 to 99% by weight of water, wherein the composition contains virtually no water-soluble solvent.

26. (Previously Presented) The dimensionally stable composition of claim 25 packaged in an air-tight and water proof pack.

27. (Previously Presented) The dimensionally stable composition of claim 25 in combination with a support, holder or pack.

28. (Previously Presented) The dimensionally stable composition of claim 25 additionally comprising one or more additives selected from the group consisting of regulators, perfumes, insecticides, thickeners, dyes, pigments and moisture indicators.
29. (Previously Presented) The dimensionally stable composition of claim 28 wherein said one or more additives are present in amounts of up to 20% by weight.
30. (Previously Presented) The dimensionally stable composition of claim 25 wherein the one or more alkali metal carboxylates are Na carboxylates of C<sub>12-22</sub> carboxylic acids.
31. (Previously Presented) The dimensionally stable composition of claim 25 comprising 2 to 10% by weight of the one or more alkali metal carboxylates and 70 to 98% by weight of water.
32. (Previously Presented) The dimensionally stable composition of claim 25 having a shape selected from the group consisting of blocks, spheres, cubes, bars, discs and figures.
33. (Previously Presented) The dimensionally stable composition of claim 25 having a pH of from 7 to 11.

Claims 34-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A dimensionally stable composition, comprising:  
1 to 40% by weight of one or more alkali metal carboxylates of C<sub>8-26</sub> carboxylic acids selected from the group consisting of caproic, caprylic, capric, lauric, myristic, palmitic, arachic, behenic, cerotic, pentadecanoic, margaric, tridecanoic, lignoceric, myristoleic, palmitoleic, oleic, elaidic, petroselic, erucic, linolic, linoleic, arachidonic, clupanodonic, docosahexaenoic, eicosapentaenoic, and gadoleic acid; and  
60 to 99% by weight of water.

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37. (Previously Presented) A dimensionally stable composition, comprising:  
1 to 40% by weight of one or more alkali metal carboxylates of C<sub>8-26</sub> carboxylic acids;  
60 to 99% by weight of water; and  
a compound selected from the group consisting of non-hygroscopic salts, hygroscopic salts, clays, silica gels, and molecular sieves, for adjusting the vapor pressure of the water present in the dimensionally stable composition.
38. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 10 wherein the regulator is a polyalcohol.
39. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 38 wherein the regulator is glycerol.